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associate, in 1866, when he was but thirty years of age. Great as were his abilities in astronomy, he was yet at his best as a teacher. Those who came under his influence at Williamstown can bear witness to this; his ablest pupils profited most from his stored learning, and some from among them are laboring for astronomy to-day."

GEORGE K. LAWTON.—In the unexpected death of GEORGE K. LAWTON, of the U. S. Naval Observatory, a young astronomer of great promise has passed away. The loss to American astronomy can be appreciated as yet only by those who had the good fortune to know him intimately. He was born October 20, 1873, and died at Washington, July 25, 1901, after a brief illness of twelve days, of typhoid fever; and was thus less than twenty-eight years of age. Under the guidance of his father, Professor U. W. LAWTON, of Jackson, Michigan, he had enjoyed from childhood excellent educational advantages, and in 1895 graduated in classics at the University of Michigan, where he also pursued advanced astronomical studies under Professor ASAPH HALL, Jr., at the Detroit Observatory. He then spent a year in postgraduate study at the University of Chicago, where the writer had the honor to be one of his teachers. He showed distinguished abilities in the study of celestial mechanics and of higher mathematics. He was afterwards attached to the Observatory of Yale University for a short time, occupied mainly with work on meteors; and then came to the Naval Observatory as one of the regular computers. In 1897 he took the degree of M. A. at the University of Michigan.

While attached to this observatory he participated in all the transit-circle observations of the past five years, much of which has recently appeared in the *Publications of the U. S. Naval Observatory* (Vol. I, New Series). Last year he bore an important part in the observations of the total eclipse of the Sun, at Pinehurst, North Carolina. More recently he took the leading part in the reductions and revision of the *Eros* observations of this observatory, and has been occupied partly with equatorial work. Only a month ago he was permanently assigned to the 26-inch equatorial, and had entered upon researches of great promise.

On account of his extreme modesty, and the arrearages of our publications, his scientific reputation at the time of his death was in no way commensurate with his merits. Yet he was already a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and last year participated in the meeting of the Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America.

His mind was developed in admirable symmetry and harmony, and his scholarship almost as good in Latin and Greek and general literature as in modern science. He had that happy faculty of cool, quiet judgment, combined with good-nature, which made him adequate to any occasion. Besides possessing scientific and literary talents of a high order, he was of a very high-minded and noble disposition, universally beloved by his associates. Unseen by men, he continually did many acts of benevolence, and bestowed gracious remembrances which add to the charm of life and make us realize that the high types written of long ago have not wholly passed away. He was an active member of St. Thomas's Church in this city, of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, and of the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan. During his residence here of five years, he became fairly well known in the city, more by the reputation of his high character than by any very extensive mingling with the people. When the writer had to send the saddest of messages to his grief-stricken family, the telegraph operator, who knew him only by reputation, was nearly overcome, and said, "That good man is not long for this world." In all my experience I have never met quite so modest, so noble, and so loving a character.

The sudden death of Mr. LAWTON, almost at the very beginning of what promised to be a brilliant career, has cast a deep gloom over the entire observatory. He was indeed the noblest of the noble, and his place can never be filled.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 27, 1901.

T. J. J. SEE.

ERNST AUGUST LAMP.—On May 10, 1901, Professor LAMP, Astronomer of the German Boundary Commission, died in German East Africa. Professor LAMP was born in Kopperpahl, near Kiel, April 4, 1850. He studied in the universities of Kiel, Berlin, and Göttingen, taking his degree at the last named place in 1874. From 1874 to 1877, he was employed at the Geodetic Institute in Berlin; from 1877 to 1883, second observer at the Kiel Observatory; from 1883 to 1897, first observer in the same institution. Upon leaving the Kiel Observatory in 1897, he was connected for some time with the Royal Geodetic Institute at Potsdam, and later with the Boundary Commission mentioned above.

Professor LAMP's chief astronomical work was upon comets. His numerous observations and orbits have been published in the